

Customer No. 24498
Attorney Docket No. PFO20113
Office Action Date: June 20, 2008

REMARKS

The Non Final Office Action mailed June 20, 2008 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 14 and 15 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter is believed to be added by the amendments.

§103 REJECTIONS

Claims 1 and 3-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 00/18066 to Bender et al. (hereinafter Bender) in view of US 2005/0157732 to Joy et al. (hereinafter Joy) and the admitted prior art ("APA") as disclosed by the Applicant in the specification FIG. 1, page 1, lines 12-22. Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1 and 3-16 are patentably distinguishable over any combination of the cited references.

The Examiner has cited Joy as allegedly teaching that MAC address is a unique address used on a network in order to ensure that a given packet will arrive at the correct destination. However, neither Bender, the APA or Joy disclose or suggest the teaching of the claims 1 and 14-16.

In particular, Bender, the APA and Joy, either individually or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest at least the registration process for two separate devices essentially as recited in claims 1, 14-16. Bender doesn't disclose the step of separately registering to the access point, with the respective MAC addresses, the device and itself

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as wireless devices on the wireless network, wherein the registration is performed through an authentication and an association process of the type as defined by the IEEE 802.11 standards.

The Examiner referred to the following portions of Bender as allegedly disclosing the presently claimed process of registering:

- page 9, lines 7-12: the wireless modem 42 and the terminal equipment unit 40 are assigned IP address
- page 10, lines 19-23: each one of the wireless modem 42 and the terminal equipment unit 40 has a unique hardware address. (it is well known in the art to assign a unique hardware address to a network equipment)
- page 11, lines 3-7: the wireless modem 42 is pre-assigned an IP address for its own use, and an IP address for assignment to the terminal equipment unit 40.

However, the Applicant notes that what Bender in fact, teaches is that the wireless modem 42 and the terminal equipment 40 are recorded to the access point (58, 60) with their IP and hardware addresses. They are registered at the access point as network devices that are addressable at their respective addresses.

Neither Bender, the APA or Joy disclose or suggest at least a bridge device that separately registers the device and itself to the access point as wireless devices on the wireless network with their respective MAC addresses, essentially as claimed in claims 1, 14, 15 and 16. Furthermore, neither Bender, the APA nor Joy teach or suggest at least that the registration is performed through an authentication and an association process of

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the type as defined by the IEEE 802.11 standards.

Significantly, note that the equipment unit 40 of Bender is not registered as a wireless device at the access point; instead it is recorded at the access point, as being addressable through the wireless modem device through the point to point wireless link 56. This is different from being addressable as a wireless device on a wireless network, as in the present invention.

In particular, the alleged 'bridge device' of Bender (wireless modem 42) does not have the structure to perform the registration of a 'device' (terminal equipment unit 40) and itself as wireless devices on the wireless network to the access point. On page 7, Bender only indicates that the wireless modem 42 comprises a transceiver 46 that further comprises a wireless link communication module.

However, in the present application it is indicated that some adaptation is necessary in a bridge device to support the registration method of the claimed embodiment. Clearly, the bridge device needs to manage multiple wireless connections concurrently; which is detailed in the present specification on pages 4-7.

In contrast, the transceiver of Bender does not, and cannot, perform registration of the first terminal equipment unit 40 and the wireless modem 42 as wireless devices on a wireless network. Instead, the wireless modem 42 of Bender only enables recording a device to an access point.

Therefore, the bridge device of Bender doesn't comprise means for carrying out two separate device registrations for registering the first device and the bridge device as wireless devices on the wireless network, one for the bridge device, and one for the first device, using respective MAC addresses, wherein the registration is performed through

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an authentication and an association process of the type as defined by the IEEE 802.11 standard.

The admitted prior art "APA" as indicated in page 1 line 17-22 of the application fails to cure the deficiencies of Bender and Joy. Namely, the APA fails to disclose or suggest a bridge device separately registering to an access point with the respective MAC addresses, a device and itself as wireless devices on the wireless network, wherein the registration is performed through an authentication and an association process of the type as defined by the IEEE 802.11 standards, essentially as claimed in claims 1, 14, 15 and

16.

Joy also fails to cure the deficiencies of Bender and/or the APA. As mentioned above, Joy was merely cited as allegedly teaching that a MAC address is a unique address used in a network. However, Joy involves encapsulating and transmitting data packets over a communication network such as a serial bus and is completely silent with respect to any registration process of devices to an access point, much less with a bridge device for separately registering to an access point a device and itself as wireless devices on a wireless network using their respective MAC addresses, essentially as recited in claims 1, 14, 15 and 16.

Therefore, claims 1, 14, 15 and 16 are patentable and nonobvious in view of Bender in view of Joy and/or the APA. Claims 3-13 depend from and include all the limitations of claim 1 and are thus believed to be allowable as well. Withdrawal of the 103(a) rejection in view of Bender, Joy and the APA is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of the claims set forth in the Non Final Office Action of June 20, 2008 be withdrawn, that pending Claims 1 and 3-16 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in due course.

In the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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